

Message Text

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FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:JLCLBERT/FTC:DTARR

APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:M KOVNER

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R 012009Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 101833

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, EMAE, UR

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION OFFICIAL

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 5949, (B) MOSCOW 5769 (C) STATE 93515

1. REF (A). FYI THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION IS MAKING A STUDY OF THE WORLD STEEL INDUSTRY, WHICH SEEKS TO EXPLAIN THE US POSITION IN WORLD STEEL. QUESTIONS WHICH TARR IS INTERESTED IN PURSUING ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. WHAT DATA SOURCES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE SOVIET STEEL INDUSTRY? WHAT IS AVAILABLE ON COSTS?

2. WHAT IS THE MINIMUM EFFICIENT SIZE STEEL PLANT IN THE SOVIET UNION?

3. IF A NEW STEEL PLANT OF THE MINIMUM EFFICIENT SIZE WERE CONSTRUCTED IN THE SOVIET UNION, WHAT SPECIFICALLY WOULD IT
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ENTAIL I.E. HOW MANY BLAST FURNACES AND THEIR SIZE, THE SIZE, NUMBER AND TYPE OF CRUDE STEEL MAKING FURNACES, PRIMARY ROLLING MILL OR CONTINUOUS CASTING FACILITIES AND SO ON?

4. WHAT ROUGHING MILL, CONTINUOUS CASTING, BLAST FURNACE AND DIRECT REDUCTION FACILITIES HAVE BEEN PLACED IN OPERATION SINCE JANUARY 1, 1964 AND WHAT IS THEIR CURRENT CAPACITY?

5. WHAT IS THE PERCENTAGE OF STEEL PRODUCED BY CONTINUOUS CASTING IN THE SOVIET UNION AT THE END OF EACH YEAR SINCE 1964?

6. WHAT PLANS ARE BEING MADE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CAPACITY? WHAT TYPES OF FACILITIES WILL THESE BE AND WHERE WILL THEY BE LOCATED? END FYI.

2. REALIZE THAT SOVIETS WILL NOT RESPOND TO A NUMBER OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, AND EMBASSY MAY HAVE VIEWS ON WHAT QUESTIONS IT IS PRACTICAL TO ASK. IN VIEW OF TARR'S SPECIFIC INTEREST, HOPE THAT MEETING COULD BE SET UP WITH THE GOSPLAN STEEL DIVISION.

3. REF (B) PARA. 3. TARR ARRIVING FROM GENEVA ON SU 272 AT 5:50 PM MOSCOW TIME. ON ARRIVAL AT HOTEL, TARR WILL CONTACT DOROUGH. TARR DEPARTURE IS 6:55 PM MAY 27 ON SU 575. AFTER MAY 3, TARR MAY BE REACHED THROUGH AMCONGEN GENEVA. KISSINGER

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